

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 58-60, 62, 63, 70-73, 75-92, and 96 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS claims 70, 89, 90, and 92 and CANCELS claims 49-52, 54-57, 61, 64-69, 74, and 93-95. The Examiner has withdrawn claims 91 and 96 from consideration.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 58-60, 62, and 63.

Applicant also greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 74 and 78-80 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 49-52, 54-57, 61, 64-72, 75-77, 81-90, and 92 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (U.S. 2002/0039224). Claim 73 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. in view of Okumura et al. (U.S. 2004/0155999).

Applicant has amended claim 70 to recite all of the features of allowable claim 74, has canceled claims 49-52, 54-57, 61, 64-69, 74, and 93-95, and has amended claims 89, 90, and 92 to depend from claim 70. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 49-52, 54-57, 61, 64-72, 75-77, 81-90, and 92 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. and claim 73 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. in view of Okumura et al. are now moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 58, 62, and 70 are allowable. Claims 59, 60, 63, 71-73, 75-90, and 92 depend upon claims 58, 62, and 70, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 58, 62, and 70 are allowable.

In view of the allowability of generic claim 70, Applicant respectfully requests that non-elected claims 91 and 96 be rejoined and also allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

Application No. 10/549,584
September 13, 2011
Reply to the Office Action dated June 14, 2011
Page 9 of 9

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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